

NEW MILL URBAN DISTRICT.

Report of Medical Officer of Health, 1903.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In my report for the year 1902, in consequence of there being 16 more inhabited houses than in the previous year, I expressed the opinion that there would be an increase in population. I am informed, however, that in 1903 there were 17 fewer inhabited houses than in 1902. I am, therefore, obliged to think that the population of the district is again about the same as that in the year of the census, viz.: 4624.

The prosperity of a district may be measured more or less closely by the increase or decrease of its population, and this stagnation or decline is no doubt brought home to you in various ways, yet it may be that some do not fully realise its importance.

It was estimated that, during the ten years ending in 1901, there had been a decline in the population of this district, as now constituted, of 170. That is 17 each year, which may not seem much. But the whole of the natural increase—that is, the difference between the births and deaths—had disappeared also. Now the natural increase since 1896 has been 63 per annum, so that this district has been losing nearly 80 persons every year. How old all these people are when they leave I do not know, but it is probable that most of them go away just when they are beginning to be productive members of the community, and so the district loses the cost of their bringing up, as well as their prospective value as producers. The farmers lose consumers of their produce, the tradespeople lose customers for their commodities and labour, and so on. Besides, it is often the more thrifty and energetic people who go, while the less thrifty remain, and some of these become a burden to the rest. Finally, the Council loses ratepayers, and so they are restricted in their efforts to improve the district.

These are a few of the ways in which your district is affected by the great movement so much deplored of late in the press and elsewhere, namely, the depopulation of the country districts, resulting in the overcrowding of the slums of the great towns, and, as many think, the physical deterioration of the race. However that may be, I think I have shown the great and cumulative importance of keeping the population within the district, and, if possible, of attracting others to it so that this fearful drain on your resources may be arrested.

In this report I am required to deal with the following subjects:—

House Accommodation.—As indicated above, this is ample, there are houses to let in each of the three townships, but not many good houses, it is usually the worst that are empty. Generally the houses have plenty of air space, and, with a few well-known exceptions, they are fairly well kept inside and out. No new houses have been built, but there is one cottage house in course of erection.

Sewerage.—The Council are just completing an expensive scheme of main sewers, and sewage disposal works. These main sewers extend 5,366 yards to

collect the sewage from New Mill, Jackson Bridge, Hepworth, Scholes, Paris, and Scholes Moor Bottom, and convey it to the works where it will be treated in bacterial beds, and by land filtration. Unfortunately there are many small hamlets and groups of houses which could not be included in this scheme. Some of these had been previously dealt with, as at Fulstone Village and Magnum. Wherever the houses are drained on to the land the occupiers do not value the sewage, and neglect to regulate the distribution of it, and so nuisances are continually arising.

The proposed scheme for an increased supply of water should be accompanied by a scheme of drainage for Hade Edge and Flowery Field.

Scavenging.—The ashes privies are emptied by the Council's staff and by Contractors. The regulation of this work has received some attention, and I have not received many complaints lately.

The house refuse is deposited in stone-built dust bins, and removed by the Council's workmen.

Water Supply.—Part of the district is supplied with good upland water from a reservoir at Bankhouse Nick. Another good supply has been secured at Magnum, and borrowing powers have been obtained to construct a reservoir and lay mains. When these works are carried out it is expected that most of the places mentioned in past years as needing water will be supplied, but Victoria, where the need is greatest, will still be unsupplied. The persistent rain of the past year may have damped the ardour of some of those who want more water; still, the work should not be allowed to drag, but it should be remembered that the people at Hade Edge are using for domestic purposes the water that runs by the side of the road unprotected from all the pollutions of the road.

Lodging Houses.—There are no common lodging houses.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades.

Slaughter Houses.—There are now four slaughter houses in the district. I find one old building at New Mill which I thought had gone out of use, and a new slaughter house at Hepworth are being used without regard to the Public Health Act or to the local bye-laws.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—These are pretty much in the same condition as in former years.

Bakehouses.—There is only one bakehouse known to me; it is used for making oat cake. It is modern, suitable for the purpose, and was well kept when last inspected.

It is the custom for each household to bake its own bread.

Factories and Workshops.—There are 21 workshops registered in the district. They comprise premises occupied by tailors, dressmakers, shoemakers, cloggers, joiners, blacksmiths, mechanics,

and flock makers. They have all been inspected from time to time, and with one or two exceptions by me personally. The tailors' and dressmakers' work rooms were all quite satisfactory as regards cleanliness, air space, means of ventilation, and sanitary conveniences. The rest were satisfactory in all these respects considering the nature of the work carried on in them.

I have made careful enquiry, and did not find any case where work was sent out to private houses, and there are no "outworkers."

A register of workshops is kept.

Nuisances.—At the end of 1902 a number of nuisances referring to defective drains, etc., were left in abeyance until the completion of the main sewers; these will doubtless be remedied as the other connections are made. Of other nuisances the late Inspector recorded 27, of which 26 were abated, and the present Inspector reports 7, with 7 abated, leaving one standing over.

The Council have adopted part III. of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The births of 134 infants were registered; of these 74 were boys, and 60 were girls; the birth-rate was 28·9. The average birth-rate for the previous seven years was 29·2. The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1903 was 28·4. The number of deaths was 67; there were therefore twice as many births as deaths, and the excess of births over deaths was 67.

Deaths.—Sixty-six deaths were registered, but one at Deanhouse of a person belonging to this district had to be included, and made the total 67; 29 of these were males, and 38 were females. The death-rate was 14·4 per 1,000, which is the lowest rate since the district was formed. The average rate for the previous seven years was 16·5.

The death-rate for England and Wales for 1903 was 15·4 (great towns 16·3, small towns 14·6, excluding the towns 14·8, which again was the lowest ever recorded).

The infantile mortality rate was 111·9 per 1,000 births.

The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales was 132 (great towns 144, small towns 135, excluding towns, 118.)

The number of deaths and the death-rates for each township were as follows:—

		Rate.	
Fulstone	31	15·3	per 1 000 per annum.
Hepworth	13	12·4	"
Scholes	23	14·8	"

Fatal Diseases.—The following diseases were certified as the causes of the 67 deaths:—

		Rate.	
Whooping Cough	3	·64	
Influenza	1	·21	
Diarrhoea	2	·42	
Enteritis	1	·21	
Phthisis	5	1·08	
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	·86	
Cancer	3	·64	
Bronchitis	8	1·72	
Pneumonia	3	·64	
Heart Disease	14	3·02	
Accident	1	·21	
Suicides	2	·43	
All other causes	20	4·32	
Total	67	14·4	per 1,000 per annum.

The zymotic death rate was 1·08; considerably lower than that for the whole country, which was 1·46, but exactly the same as that for the rural districts.

The phthisis death rate, 1·08, was rather high, and very high if "other tuberculous diseases" be included, making it 1·9.

The heart disease death-rate was very high,—3·02 per 1,000.

Infectious Diseases.—Notification was adopted in 1896. In 1897 5 certificates were received; in 1898, 6; in 1899, 9; in 1900, 9; in 1901, 8; in 1902 47; and in 1903, 9. These last referred to 2 cases of Erysipelas, 2 cases of Enteric Fever, and 5 cases of Scarlet Fever. The Enteric or Typhoid cases were sporadic cases at Scholes and New Mill of unknown origin. The diagnosis of the New Mill case was confirmed by the experts at Wakefield.

Of the Scarlet Fever cases two occurred at Short Horns, in January. They were the last of the 1902 epidemic. Two cases occurred at Milshaw Grove in August. The infection was brought by a visitor, a relative from Holmfirth. The fifth case occurred at Piper House in November. The origin of this case is uncertain but there were other cases in the adjoining district. In spite of all our warnings the infection was carried to a neighbour's house, and two other cases were notified at Piper House on January 10th of this year. However, it is now six weeks since the beginning of the last case, so the epidemic is perhaps arrested.

Fortunately the district has so far escaped invasion by small pox. In cases where New Mill people had been exposed to the chance of infection the Medical Officer of Huddersfield sent their names to me so that, if need arose, the patients might be promptly isolated.

Infectious Diseases not Notifiable.—Small epidemics of Whooping Cough, Measles, Chicken Pox, Mumps, and Influenza have occurred. They did not seem to call for exceptional treatment, and no day school has had to be closed this year.

Owing to the mildness of the winter, and the coolness of the summer, the first ten months of the year were unusually healthy, but during the last two months, and owing no doubt, to the excessive and prolonged rains, diseases of the rheumatic class—such as Lumbago, Sciatica, Acute Rheumatism, Heart Disease, and Tonsillitis—became very common. The death rate for the first quarter was 13·7, for the second quarter 8·6, for the third quarter 14·6, and for the fourth quarter 19·7.

ALBERT THORP,

Medical Officer of Health for New Mill,
near Huddersfield.

February 13, 1904.
Undercliffe,
Holmfirth.

TABLE I.

New Mill Urban District.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and previous years.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimat ed to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Non- resid'nts register ed in Public Institu- tions in the District	Deaths of resid'nts register ed in Public Institu- tions beyond the District	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		No.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.				No.	Rate.*
				No.	Rate per 1000 Births regist'd	No.	Rate.*				
1893											
1894											
1895											
1896	4624	132	28·5	16	121·2	85	18·3	1	1	85	18·3
1897	4624	161	34·8	25	155·3	91	19·6			91	19·6
1898	4624	136	29·4	14	102·9	67	14·4		1	68	14·7
1899	4624	136	29·4	20	147·0	73	15·7			73	15·7
1900	4624	139	30·0	15	107·9	77	16·6	1	2	78	16·8
1901	4624	120	25·9	17	141·6	63	13·6		7	70	15·1
1902	4656	124	26·6	17	137·1	69	14·7		3	72	15·4
Averages for Years 1896—1902	4628	135	29·2	17·7	130·4	75	16·2			76·7	16·5
1903	4624	134	28·9	15	111·9	66	14·2		1	67	14·4

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)

5680

Total population at all ages

4624

Number of inhabited houses

1014

Average number of persons per house


4·55

At Census of 1901.

TABLE II.
New Mill Urban District.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1903 and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES	WHOLE DISTRICT.				FULSTONE.				HEPWORTH.				SCHOLLES.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1896 ..	4624	132	85	16												
1897 ..	4624	161	91	25												
1898 ..	4624	136	68	14												
1899 ..	4624	136	73	20												
1900 ..	4624	139	78	15	2026		37	7	1047		15	5	1551		26	3
1901 ..	4624	120	70	17	2026	44	33	8	1047	34	15	4	1551	42	22	5
1902 ..	4656	124	72	17	2046	60	30	8	1051	29	17	6	1559	35	25	3
Averages of Years 1896 to 1902	4628	135	76.7	17.7	2032		33.3	7.6	1048		15.6	5	1553		24.3	3.6
1903 ..	4624	134	67	15	2026	55	31	9	1047	31	13	2	1551	48	23	4



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TABLE III.

New Mill Urban District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						Fulstone.	Hepworth.	Scholes.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.			
ERYSIPELAS	2							2	
SCARLET FEVER	5		1	3		1	3	2	
ENTERIC FEVER	2				1	1	1		1
Totals	9		1	4	1	4	4	4	1

TABLE IV.
New Mill Urban District.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							FULSTONE.	HEPWORTH.	SCHOLLS.	DEANHOUSE.
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up-wards.				
Whooping-cough.. .. .	3	1	2					1	1	1	
Epidemic Influenza	1					1				1	
Diarrhœa	2	1				1		1	1		
Enteritis	1		1					1			
Phthisis	5			1	2	2		2		3	
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	1	1			2		1	1	2	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	3					2	1	1	1	1	
Bronchitis	8	4				1	3	4		4	
Pneumonia	3	1	1			1		2		1	
Heart Diseases	14					9	5	7	4	3	
Accidents	1					1			1		
Suicides	2					1	1	1		1	
All other causes	20	7	1	1	2	5	4	10	4	6	(1)
Males—29	67	15	6	2	4	26	14	31	13	23	
All causes											
Females—38											
								(9)	(2)	(4)	
Death rate per 1,000 per annum.....	14·4	3·2	1·29	·43	·86	5·6	3·0	15·3	12·4	14·8	



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- OF -

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1903.



Eli Collins & Co., Ltd., Typos, Holmfirth.